

12 December 2008

Chem-Bio News

1. MALAYSIA FREES MAN ACCUSED OF AIDING 9/11 PLOTTERS: *"Yazid, a U.S.-trained biochemist, was arrested in late 2001 when he returned home from Afghanistan, where he was suspected of working on a biological and chemical weapons program for al-Qaida."*

2. COMMENTARY: WMD TERRORISM FEARS ARE OVERBLOWN: *"Peter Bergen says terrorist attempts to use WMDs have proven to be relatively ineffective."*

3. BASSON WANTS HPCSA [HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA] PROBED: *"In papers filed at the Pretoria High Court, Basson said the HPCSA would penalise him for his involvement in the apartheid regime's chemical and biological warfare programme."*

Chem-Demil News

1. US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – NEUTRALIZATION OF CHEMICAL AGENTS: *"In 1994, in response to public input, the Army's former Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project started investigating alternatives to incineration for the disposal of the chemical agent stockpiles at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind."*

2. US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – MILESTONES IN U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION: *A multi-page graphic detailing key events in the US CW stockpile and demil programs.*

3. CHEMICAL WASTE TO BE SENT TO TEXAS: *"Approximately 8,000 gallons of GB (Sarin) neutralized waste will be sent from the Blue Grass Army Depot to Port Arthur, Texas, in late January or February following a recent federal ruling in favor of the Army."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

MALAYSIA FREES MAN ACCUSED OF AIDING 9/11 PLOTTERS

By Sean Yoong

Associated Press on Google News

December 10, 2008

"The most prominent among them is Yazid Sufaat, an ex-army captain who allegedly let several senior al-Qaida operatives, including two eventual Sept. 11 hijackers, use an apartment he owned for meetings in Malaysia in January 2000."

"Yazid, a U.S.-trained biochemist, was arrested in late 2001 when he returned home from Afghanistan, where he was suspected of working on a biological and chemical weapons program for al-Qaida."

The full article can be found at: http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5gj_eCuzxTtIECP3xGR18cl-AXf6gD94VUU3G3

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COMMENTARY: WMD TERRORISM FEARS ARE OVERBLOWN

By Peter Bergen

CNN.com

December 5, 2008

"More recently, in 2006 and 2007 al Qaeda's Iraqi affiliate laced several of its bombs with chlorine. Those attacks sickened hundreds of Iraqis, but victims who died in the assaults did so more from the blast of the bombs than because of inhaling chlorine. Al Qaeda stopped using chlorine in its bombs in Iraq more than a year ago.

There is a semantic problem in any discussion of WMDs because the ominous term "Weapons of Mass Destruction" is something of a misnomer. In the popular imagination, chemical, biological and nuclear devices are all weapons of mass destruction. In fact, there is only one weapon of mass destruction that can kill tens or hundreds of thousands and that is a nuclear device.

So the real question is: Can terrorists deploy nuclear weapons any time in the next five years or even further in the future? To do so, terrorists would have one of four options: to buy, steal, develop or be given a nuclear weapon.

But none of those scenarios are remotely realistic outside the world of Hollywood.

To understand how complex it is to develop a nuclear weapon, it is worth recalling that Saddam Hussein put tens of millions of dollars into his nuclear program with no success."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/POLITICS/12/05/bergen.wmd/index.html?iref=newssearch>

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BASSON WANTS HPCSA [HEALTH PROFESSIONS COUNCIL OF SOUTH AFRICA] PROBED

By Zelda Venter

The Independent Online

December 10, 2008

"In papers filed at the Pretoria High Court, Basson said the HPCSA would penalise him for his involvement in the apartheid regime's chemical and biological warfare programme.

Basson is asking for an order that would block the HPCSA from investigating his past.

He is also asking for an order declaring that the continuance of the inquiry is unlawful, unreasonable and procedurally unfair.

Basson, a cardiologist practising at the Panorama Hospital in Parow, had set out in an affidavit how he became involved in the country's chemical and biological warfare programme, dubbed Project Coast, in the 1980s.

He said in 1979 there was proof that chemical agents were used by Cuban and Swapo Forces in Southern Angola against Unita Forces, who were at the time supported by the South African Defence Force (SADF).

He said it was established that the enemy forces had the necessary equipment to use chemical and biological agents and the SADF initiated Project Coast in response to this threat."

The full article can be found at: http://www.iol.co.za/index.php?set_id=1&click_id=125&art_id=vn20081210061708793C853682

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Chem-Demil News

US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – NEUTRALIZATION OF CHEMICAL AGENTS

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet
December 3, 2008

"In 1994, in response to public input, the Army's former Alternative Technologies and Approaches Project started investigating alternatives to incineration for the disposal of the chemical agent stockpiles at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., and Newport Chemical Depot, Ind. Each of these sites stored only one type of chemical agent. Disposal operations at Newport Chemical Depot, Ind., were completed in August 2008. Agent disposal at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., was completed in February 2006.

These stockpiles, referred to as bulk agent stockpiles, were unique because they consisted solely of large steel containers filled with chemical agent, having no explosives or other weapon components. This simple configuration was ideal for testing alternative disposal methods.

After much study and community involvement, the Army selected neutralization as the best disposal method for the bulk stockpiles. Three independent groups composed of industry, science, safety and technology experts such as the National Research Council, as well as the Maryland and Indiana Citizens' Advisory Commissions, supported the Army's selection. After obtaining the necessary environmental permits, the Army began construction of neutralization pilot test facilities at the Maryland and Indiana sites.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the Army investigated expediting safe neutralization of the two stockpiles. In 2002, the Army, with the agreement of state and federal agencies and officials, implemented accelerated schedules for neutralizing the Maryland and Indiana stockpiles.

Neutralization

Maryland's chemical agent stockpile was destroyed by draining the agent from the steel storage containers and neutralizing it on site in industrial reactors using hot water. The Indiana stockpile was neutralized on site in reactors using hot sodium hydroxide and water.

As shown in the diagram below, both processes accessed the agent, neutralized it and transported the resulting byproduct (hydrolysate) off site to a commercial treatment and disposal facility for post-treatment. The empty steel containers then were cleaned, monitored to ensure complete decontamination and shipped off site for smelting and recycling.

Hydrolysate treatment

At both sites, the hydrolysate formed in neutralizing the chemical agent was tested to confirm that the chemical agent has been destroyed. Although free of chemical agent, the hydrolysate was considered an industrial hazardous waste and required further treatment. The hydrolysate from the Maryland facility was transported to the DuPont Secure Environmental Treatment Facility in Deepwater, N.J., for off-site treatment and final disposal. The hydrolysate from the Indiana facility was transported to Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas, for final disposal."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003672521>

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US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY – MILESTONES IN U.S. CHEMICAL WEAPONS STORAGE AND DESTRUCTION

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December 3, 2008

A multi-page graphic detailing key events in the US CW stockpile and demil programs.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?>

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CHEMICAL WASTE TO BE SENT TO TEXAS

Richmond Register (KY)

December 9, 2008

"Approximately 8,000 gallons of GB (Sarin) neutralized waste will be sent from the Blue Grass Army Depot to Port Arthur, Texas, in late January or February following a recent federal ruling in favor of the Army.

"The situation in Kentucky is that there are leaking containers of GB (Sarin) agent contaminated liquid that must be destroyed immediately and there is no capacity to deal with the resultant liquids at this site," said Craig Williams, director of the Berea-based Chemical Weapons Working Group."

The full article can be found at: http://www.richmondregister.com/localnews/local_story_344082221.html

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